

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5756

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 16778

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN, US

SUBJ: US-INDIA JOINT COMMISSION

REF: STATE 273050

1. THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS FEELS HE HAS TO REMAIN IN DELHI UNTIL FEBRUARY 28 WHEN THE BUDTET IS INTRODUCED IN PARLIAMENT. HE COULD, HOWEVER, BE IN WASHINGTON DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF MARCH FOR A MEETING OF THE JOINT COMMISSION. THEY WILL BE CHECKING DATES TODAY. IF THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR THE SECRETARY, PERHAPS SOMEONE WILL LET US KNOW.

2. CHAVAN SEEMS ANXIOUS TO GET ON WITH THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION. HE FEELS AN EARLY MARCH DATE WILL GIVE EACH GOVERNMENT A CHANCE TO RESPOND TO THE FIRST MEETINGS OF THE THREE SUBCOMMISSIONS, WHICH WILL HAVE TAKEN PLACE BY THEN.

3. THE GALLUP POLL TODAY REPORTS THE PRIME MINISTER'S POPULARITY AT ITS LOWEST POINT EVER. I COMMENCE TO FEEL THE ARABS WILL UNDO THIS DEMOCRACY WELL BEFORE THEY UNDO OURS. THE RECENT BLOW TO STERLING, WHICH WAS A BLOW TO THE RUPEE, IS BUT ONE EXAMPLE. FOR THE FIRST TIME I HEAR PEOPLE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S ENTOURAGE DESCRIBING EVENTS IN THESE TERMS. I.E. THE "RADICAL DISEQUILIBRIUM" OF THE PRESENT ECONOMIC AND

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HENCE POLITICAL SITUATION, AND THE ARAB ORIGINS OF

THE DISEQUILIBRIUM. I WOULD SAY THERE WAS A TEN
PERCENT POSSIBILITY THAT THOSE WHO HORDE THE CONGRESS
PARTY'S FORTUNES WILL TURN TO SOME SIGNIFICANT
FRIENDSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES AS A MEANS TO
REPLENISH THEIR DWINDLING PILE.
MOYNIHAN

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